Occasionally, certain missions are compelled to retain excess funds for brief periods due to unforeseen circumstances.

China's refusal to recognise Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory

*346. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chinese Government has refused to recognise Arunachal Pradesh as part of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the context in which the refusal was communicated to India;

(c) Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government's viewpoint has been communicated to the Chinese Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The resolution of the boundary question between India and China is outstanding. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) to (e) The State of Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. This position has been consistently and categorically conveyed to China.

Disparity in minimum wage

*347. DR. ABRAR AHMED :

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any disparity in rates of minimum wage in various regions of the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for variation from region to region; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring in regional uniformity in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is disparity in rates of minimum wages in various regions of the country, which is due to differences in socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity, productivity and local conditions influencing the wage rate. The regional disparity in minimum wages is also attributed to the fact that both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Government to fix, revise and enforce minimum wages in scheduled employments in their respective jurisdictions under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(c) In order to minimize the disparity in minimum wages in various regions of the country, the Central Government has issued guidelines for setting up Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees. In order to bring in uniformity in minimum wages, the Central Government mooted the concept of a national floor level minimum wage and fixed it at Rs. 35/- per day in1996 based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour (1991) and subsequent rise in the price level. The national floor level wage is periodically revised based on the basis of increase in the Consumer Price Index. It was last revised to Rs. 50/- per day w.e.f. 1.9.2002. The States/UTs have been requested from time to time to ensure that the minimum wage in none of their scheduled employments is below the national floor level wage.

Draft Hardware Policy

*348. DR. M. N. DAS :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the industry, including the apex body for IT manufacturers represented by the MAIT has called upon Government to announce the hardware policy at the earliest;

(b) if so, whether the representative body of manufacturing companies of information technology has, recently, circulated a draft paper on national electronics/IT hardware manufacturing policy; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the draft hardware policy circulated by the representative body;